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DEFENSE REVISION WORRIES RAYBURN

Speaker Calls U. S. Officials
Too 'Complacent' About
Soviet Arms Threat

By JACK RAYMOND

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21—The Administration's downward assessment of the Soviet military threat brought a charge of complacency and an expression of concern over official motives from members of Congress today.

The Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, said:

"I think people in the executive branch are just too complacent."

Mr. Rayburn, a Texas Democrat, said at first that he had no comment on the contention of Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates Jr. that revised intelligence estimates justified less concern about Soviet missile power.

But the Speaker then changed his mind and said with sarcasm: "I see that the Russians just yesterday shot a missile more than 7,000 miles into the Pacific. They hit within 1.2 miles of their target. We've got many cities in the United States that are bigger than that."

Symington Is Disturbed

Senator Stuart Symington, of Missouri, said he was "disturbed" by the new intelligence formula made known by Secretary Gates.

The new technique focuses attention on what the Soviet is believed to be planning rather than what it is believed to be capable of doing with its military forces, particularly its missile arsenal.

Senator Symington, who is a potential candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, last year prodded the administration into publishing its official estimate that the Russians would have a three-to-one advantage in missiles. He said today he was worried over why defense officials should alter their customary intelligence techniques and come up with an optimistic view of this country's continued numerical inferiority in ICBMs.

Teh Defense Secretary, meanwhile, insisted before the House Armed Services Committee that "it can be dangerous to our national security and our position in the world to allow a false impression to gain ground that the United States is second to the Soviet Union."

Secretary Gates, accompanied by Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified at a closed session. But his opening statement, similar to those that he had made before the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee and the Senate Armed Services Committee, was released.

A 'Formidable Power'

The Defense Secretary told newsmen outside the hearing room that neither the Soviet professions of disarmament nor its demonstrations of missile prowess, as in yesterday's Pacific test, would alter the Pentagon's military planning.

In his formal statement, he said there was "no question" that the Soviet was a "formidable power" that had made tremendous progress "but the impression in some quarters that the Soviet Union has overtaken or even outdistanced the United States in military power is simply not supported by the facts."

On the other hand, the closed testimony today of Allen W. Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, before the House Science and Astronautics Committee, was described by its chairman, Representative Overton Brooks, Democrat of Louisiana, as "discouraging."

At the Senate Armed Services Committee, where closed "posture" hearings continued, Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker and Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, the Chief of Staff, testified for the second day. They complained of inadequate support for the development of the anti-missile missile Nike Zeus, designed to combat Soviet intercontinental missiles.

Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia and chairman of the committee, said later that the two Army officials had reiterated their known views that the Nike Zeus was not getting enough money or high enough priority to accelerate it to ultimate perfection.

Senator Russell appeared to sympathize with the Army. President Eisenhower, however, has maintained that the scientific support for the missile was not yet strong enough to warrant anything more than research and development on existing levels.

Formula Criticized

The Administration's new intelligence estimates were a subject of considerable discussion privately at the Capitol and at the Pentagon.

Secretary Gates, in calling attention to the new intelligence estimates, had said it was based on "what we believe he [the Soviet] will do, not what he is capable of doing."

"Critics of the new 'formula' pointed out that the estimate was based on a correlation of all intelligence estimates contributed by several military and other agencies of Government.

The intelligence estimates, one expert noted, were intended to present "cold facts as they are" and that it was up to others to make decisions on the basis of these facts. From time to time, this expert added, intelligence agencies were asked to estimate "presumed intentions," but these were always reported back as a "distinct thing."

"The military tradition, it was said, is to prepare one's forces on the basis of the enemy's capability."

Secretary Gates at his news conference yesterday denied that the technique of preparing

the estimates had changed because of "politics," that is to put the Republican Administration in a good light in the face of Democratic attacks on defense policies.

In defense of the new intelligence estimates, a Pentagon source said that the United States had amassed a considerable amount of material about the Soviet military situation since last year. By studying this material it was possible to estimate intentions to an increased degree.

As an example, this expert said that just because the Russians had a factory to manufacture a missile or a submarine it did not mean that the manufacturing would proceed at top levels.

By studying the building of housing for workers, the construction of military bases, submarine bases, submarine pens,

the size of training schools and the like a fairer indication of Soviet intentions was available, he said.

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